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From the President

Since our last newsletter the museum has had some very interesting donations from members of the community and I would like to thank them all for thinking of us, and for making their donations. The donations all have a local connection, so see the article in this newsletter.

The More Oberon Treasures committee is getting closer to finalising its project but is still trying to put together the funds to subsidise the sale of the book. We have proposals in the grant pipeline and it is just a matter of waiting.

I have just completed two talks on the development of the softwoods industry in Oberon as part of the museums commitment to the Field to Forest Festival. Our Forest and Timber Pavilion is a great space for these discussions, which were appreciated by those who attended.

Recently I was advised that the demolition of the old Boral Sawmill would soon be happening. The museum has identified three items in this mill that are all over 100 years old and I, and others would love to see these items preserved rather than being scrapped. To extract them before demolition will take special equipment and funding. Meetings are occurring and we will do the best we can to preserve these items.

The Rusty Restorers are making great progress on the Blitz which is currently receiving its final coat of Salsa Fire paint before all its bits and pieces are put back together again. Well-done Rusties.

The Museum committee agreed to putting a slab for the table in the museum grounds. This has now been completed and adds to our pleasant landscaped gardens.

At a recent meeting of the committee, we agreed to raise the price of entry to the museum from \$5 to \$6. Whilst this seems only a small amount, it represents a 20% increase and we deliberately want the museum to continue to represent good value for money. All other prices remain the same.

In between other things, I have been researching many of our older buildings in town, and have drawn up a document called 'Early Oberon.' This is a work in progress and will require further input from members of the community. It is available to review at the museum and if anyone has additional photos or information that can help, please come along on Wednesday mornings to view the document and add your knowledge.

Col Roberts.

Recent donations

The **Packard Chapel Reed Organ** (pictured overleaf) which is over 110 years old has been restored to a playable condition in the restoration shed at Lowes Mount. This beautiful instrument was donated by Angharad Withers.

Davis and Val Pearce have donated 11 home wear items, including an early model **Bakelite Transistor Radio**.



Angharad Withers donated a **Koertz Wool press** and attachments - all of which are in excellent condition.



Malcolm Graham has donated some **steam train memorabilia**.

And David Cook has donated eight items of Jenolan Caves **souvenir Shelly Crockery** that were missing from the Barry Richard collection reported on in the last newsletter.

A sample
from the
Shelly
Crockery
collection



More Oberon Treasures

This museum project, commenced in October 2024, is almost completed. There are 40 life stories up on the museum's website (with only three more "in the works"). We are hoping to be able to publish them in book form eventually. If you haven't had a look lately jump on the website (<http://oberonmuseum.com>) or check out the hard copies in the library or the museum.



Have you visited the museum lately?

Don't think for a moment that you have seen all there is to see even if you visited the museum in the last 12 months or so! Even the volunteers on roster duty do a quick check each time they arrive to see what's changed! Exhibits are constantly being moved, improved, or re-grouped.

Another exciting improvement, due to Noel Kitt's interest in, and experimentation with, QR codes, is the addition of QR codes to the explanation sheets on some displays. This means that visitors can look at an item, say the restored Reed Organ, and then use their phones to be taken to a website that shows how this piece of equipment works. There is huge potential here.

Why don't you give it a try? Open the camera on your smartphone, aim it at the QR code below, and it will suggest a Youtube link. Tap on this link to see a reed organ in action!

